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Centennial Survey

A Study of Baptist Missionary Achievement

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American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
Ford Building Boston, Massachusetts

Foreword

WE stand at the close of the first century of American Baptist missions. One hundred years have passed since that memorable day in July, 1813, when Adoniram Judson landed upon the shores of Burma. Since then hundreds of lives and millions of dollars have been devoted by American Baptists to the work in foreign lands, and now, at the end of this period, it is natural that we inquire what have been the results of this vast expenditure, and what has been our Baptist contribution to the advance of God's Kingdom in foreign lands.

It is the purpose of this pamphlet to survey the achievement of the century. We shall glance first at some of the outstanding results of the work, as shown in non-Christian lands and in Europe. We shall then trace the gradual development of the work from its beginnings in 1814. Finally, we shall try to estimate the significance of this achievement in the light of the work accomplished by other denominations.

The author is a missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and has been in service in China. During furlough he has made a study of the records and reports of the Society and its work, and the results of his investigation are presented herewith.

Centennial Survey

I. The Century in Outstanding Results

A. Baptist Contribution in Non-Christian Lands

IN a survey of the work as a whole, it is possible to find four distinct lines of contribution. First, emphasis on evangelism has resulted in the conversion of more than half a million souls and in a present church membership in non-Christian lands of 166,330. Second, our missionaries in non-Christian lands have gathered the believers into 1,575 organized Baptist churches. Third, scripture translation has given to the people on all the fields the Bible in their own tongue. Fourth, each station has been a center of social uplift.

There are, however, pecial features of our work in several of the fields which constitute a unique contribution.

In AFRICA, for example, our mission has been to the socially degraded and politically oppressed people of the Congo. In that land of spiritual midnight, our missionaries have seen cannibals transformed into Christians, and they have helped to end forever the cruelties of an iniquitous exploitation.

In SOUTH INDIA our Baptist contribution has been a message of life to the socially neglected, to those rendered hopeless through the cruel conditions of an hereditary caste. Again, we have been pioneers in realizing the possibilities of mass movements toward Christianity.

In BENGAL-ORISSA our Baptist contribution, made through the Free Baptist branch of the denomination, has been a ministry to the orphan childhood of India, and more especially the gift of a written language and a life-giving religion to the outcaste Santals, a race of primitive sun-worshipers.

In ASSAM the most striking feature of our work has been the transformation of savage head-hunters into peaceable, law-abiding Christians.

In the two islands of THE PHILIPPINES allotted to us by mission comity, we have given to the people a gospel of intellectual and spiritual freedom. Through our Jaro Industrial School we have preached the "dignity of labor" and have thus helped to lay a foundation of economic prosperity on which to build the religious and political future of the islands.

In JAPAN, our special contribution has been to the geographically isolated, hardy fisher folk of the far away Liuchiu islands, and to that unconquered race who, from time immemorial, have held the little islands of the Inland Sea.

In CHINA, the emphasis has been upon evangelism, upon church organization, and upon the work of translation.

We speak of all this as Baptist achievement — what we really mean is the achievement that God has wrought through American Baptists.

B. Table of Results in Non-Christian Lands

After 50 years		After 100 years
375	Churches — Increase 4 fold	1,575
20,477	Church Members — Increase 8 fold	166,330
$5,600	Native Contributions — Increase 28 fold	$160,253
$109,519	Home Income — Increase 10 fold	$1,114,420.98

C. Baptist Contribution in Burma

OUR contribution in Burma deserves special consideration. To the wild Karens the gift of a written language and a redemptive religion has meant literally the re-creation of the race. To the Burmans and the other native races, Christian churches and Christian schools have been given, displacing the old monastery schools and undermining the power of Buddhism. Rangoon Baptist College, enrolling over 1,500, has for years been training leaders in every branch of industrial, political and religious life. The number of self-supporting churches is to-day greater than in any other field. In Massachusetts there are 348 Baptist churches, of which 254 are entirely self-supporting. This is only 73 per cent. as against 76 per cent. for Burma. It was said by W. E. Curtis, that our work in Burma constitutes "one of the most remarkable missionary successes on record."

D. Table of Results in Burma

After 40 years		After 100 years
62	Missionaries	191
145	Native Workers	2,483
117	Organized Churches	1,009
	Self Supporting Churches	768 (76%)
8,736	Church Members	65,912
55	Schools of all Grades	743
1,178	Pupils	28,626
	Native Contributions	$130,483

E. Baptist Contribution in Europe

NO work has yielded larger returns than that in Europe. When we began work in Germany and France there were no Baptist churches in those countries. To-day there are 244 organized churches in those two countries alone. The work in Sweden was begun by the American Baptist Publication Society. When taken over by the Foreign Mission Society in 1866 there were 6,411 members of Baptist churches in Sweden; to day there are 54,268. The number 139,270 given as the present membership of these Baptist churches in Europe represents only a part of those who have become Baptists. A large number of those who joined Baptist churches in Europe later emigrated and are now found in churches of their own nationality in America. The fact that to-day we can begin to withdraw our support from these fields is the best evidence of the value of our earlier efforts. The success of our work in the Scandinavian countries as well as in Germany has had a wonderful reflex influence upon our work among these nationalities in America. No denomination has a greater hold upon these people than the Baptists.

F. Table of Results in Europe

In 1864		In 1913
81	Churches — Increase 14 fold	1,182
12,933	Members — Increase 10 fold	139,270
$22,865	Contributions — Increase 34 fold	$783,011

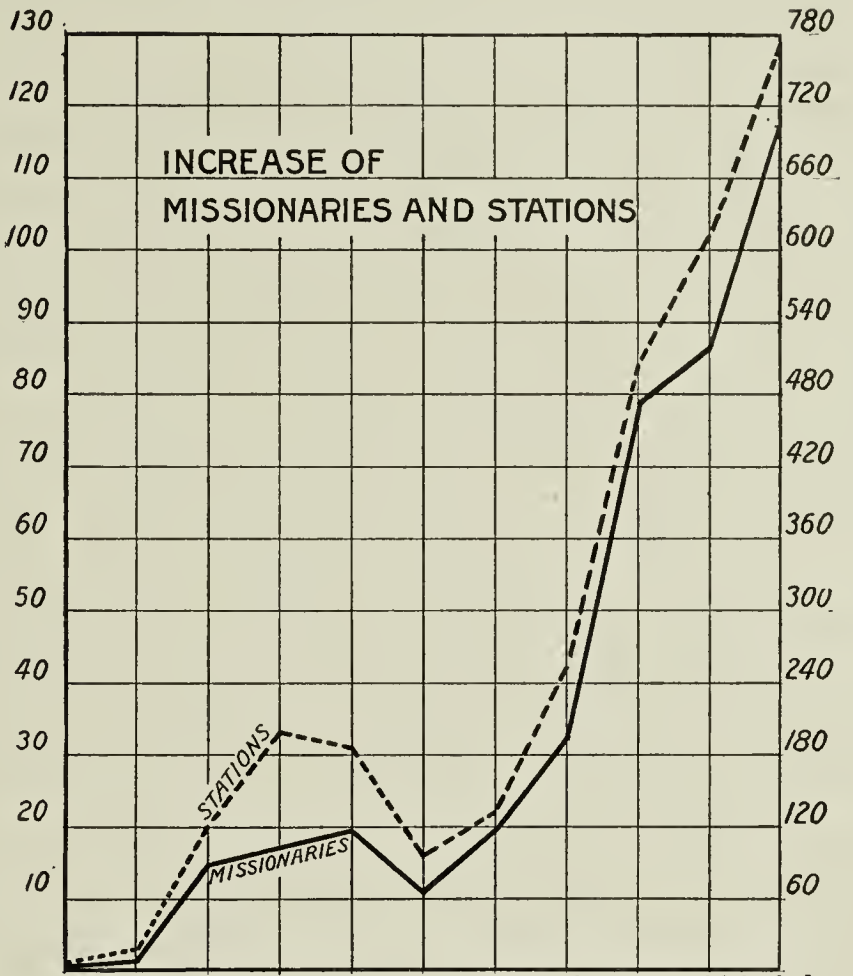
II. The Century in Gradual Development

A. Field Development

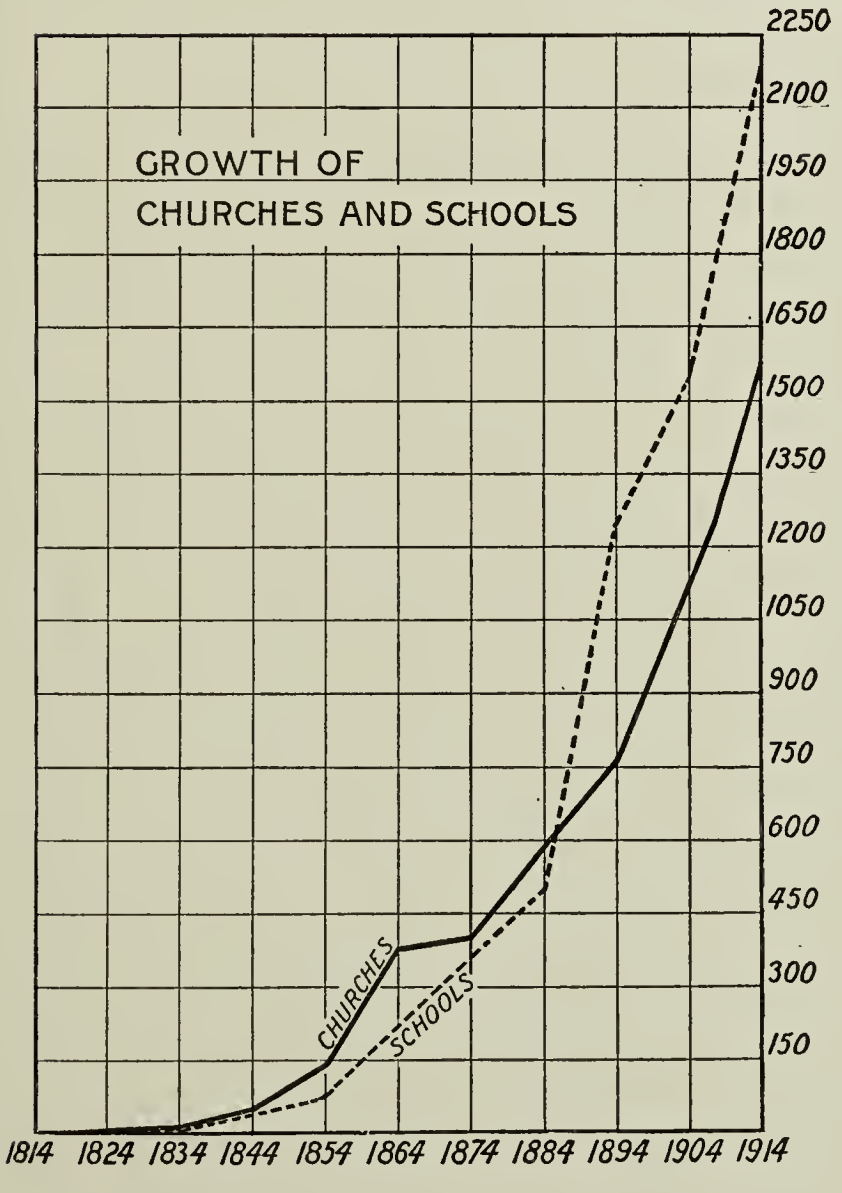
WE turn now to a survey of the growth of our work in non-Christian lands, based upon the figures of every tenth annual report.

1. MISSIONARIES AND STATIONS

IN the first chart we can follow the increase of mission stations as compared with missionaries. In 1814 there was but one station; to-day there are 127 main stations, with 2,975 outstations. In 1814 four missionaries represented the Society; in 1914 there were 701 missionaries.



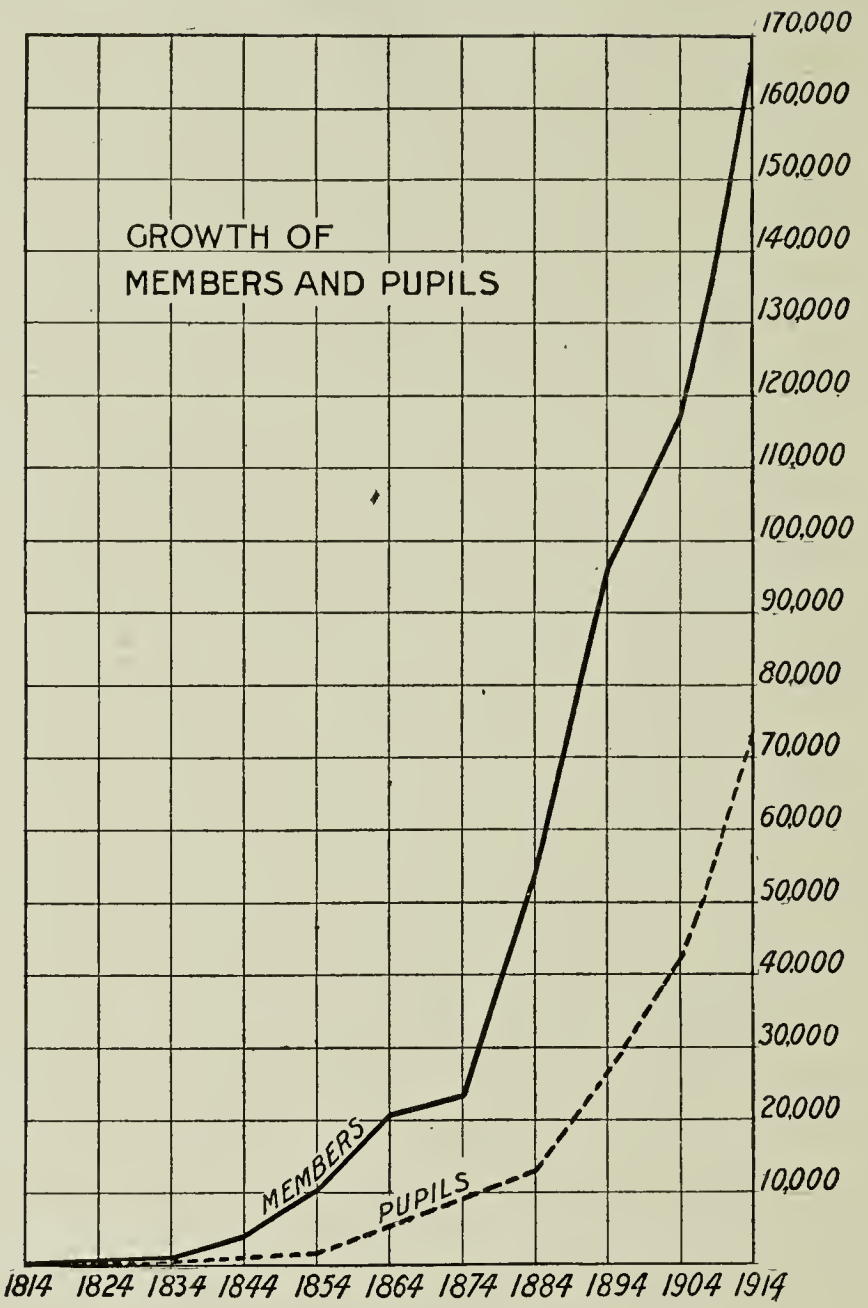
2. CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS



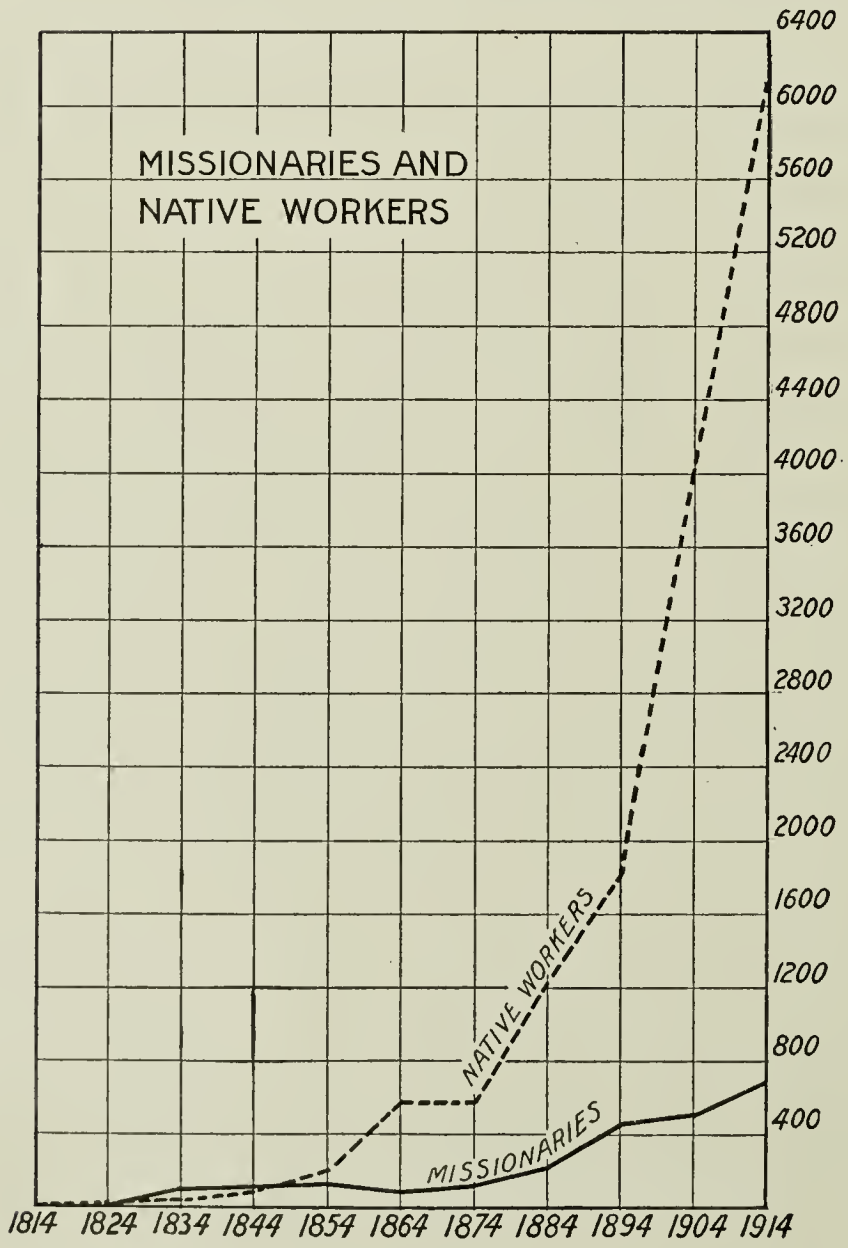
WHEN we remember the strong emphasis which our missionaries have always put upon evangelization, it is a surprise to find that we have to-day more schools than churches. The total number of organized churches in non-Christian lands is 1,575, while the schools number 2,234.

3. CHURCH MEMBERS AND PUPILS

THIS chart furnishes an even greater surprise. Since the schools outnumber the churches, we should naturally expect the pupils to outnumber or at least approximate the church members. On the contrary, the pupils number less than half the church members, 73,091 as against 166,-330. The average school numbers only 32 pupils, while the average church numbers 105 members.

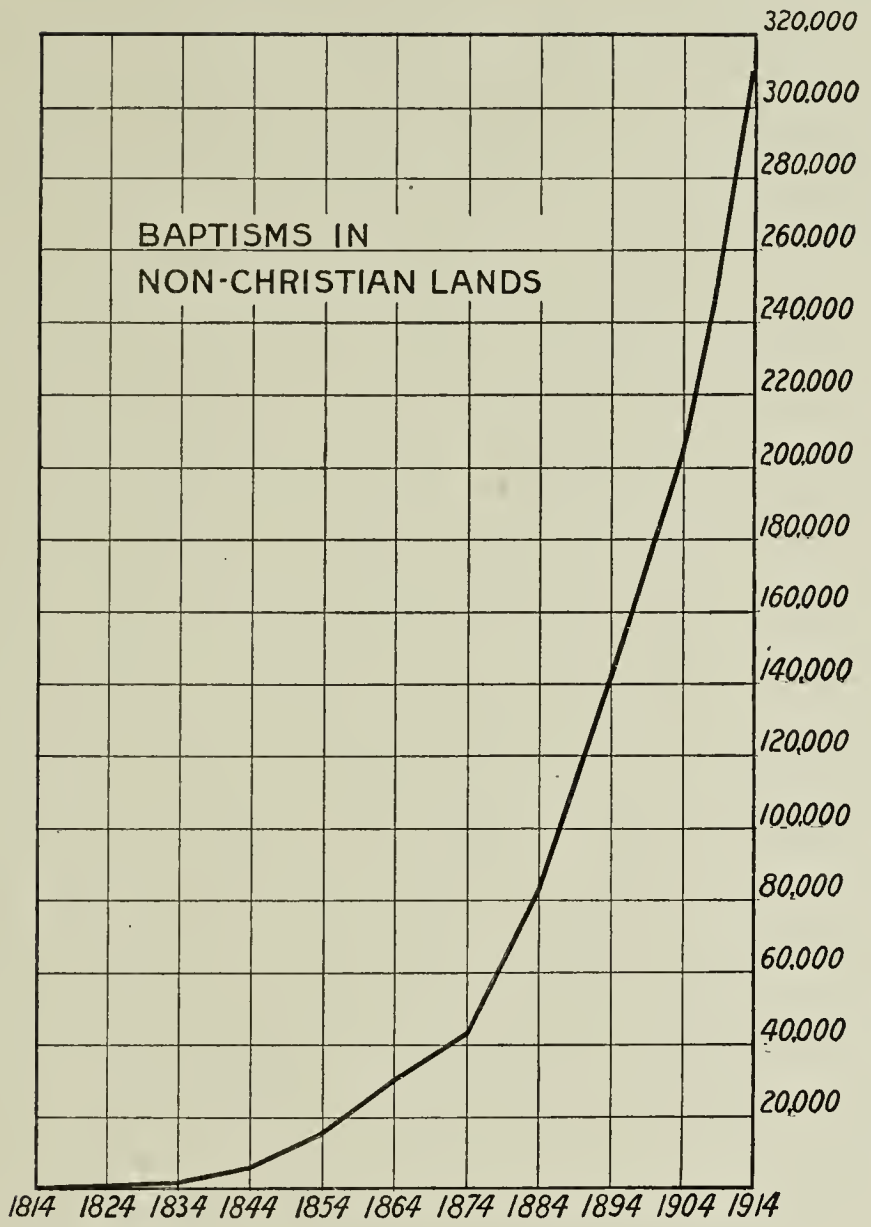


4. MISSIONARIES AND NATIVE WORKERS



IN one hundred years our missionary force has grown from 4 to 701, but this seems slight compared with the growth in native workers. In 1914 the total native workers were 6,106.

5. BAPTISMS



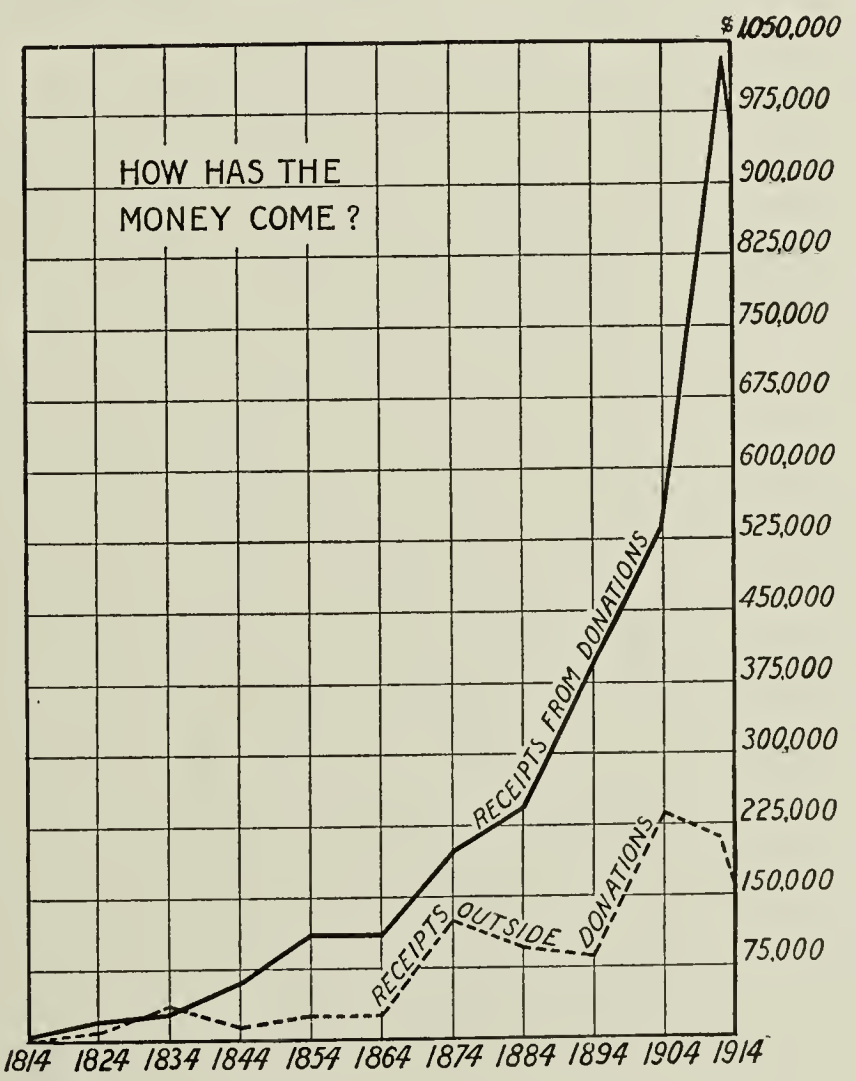
IF we search the earlier records and the later statistics we can make up a total of 308,605 baptisms in non-Christian lands. And that is by no means the complete number, for in some years the baptisms were not reported and in many others the figures were only partial.

B. Financial Development

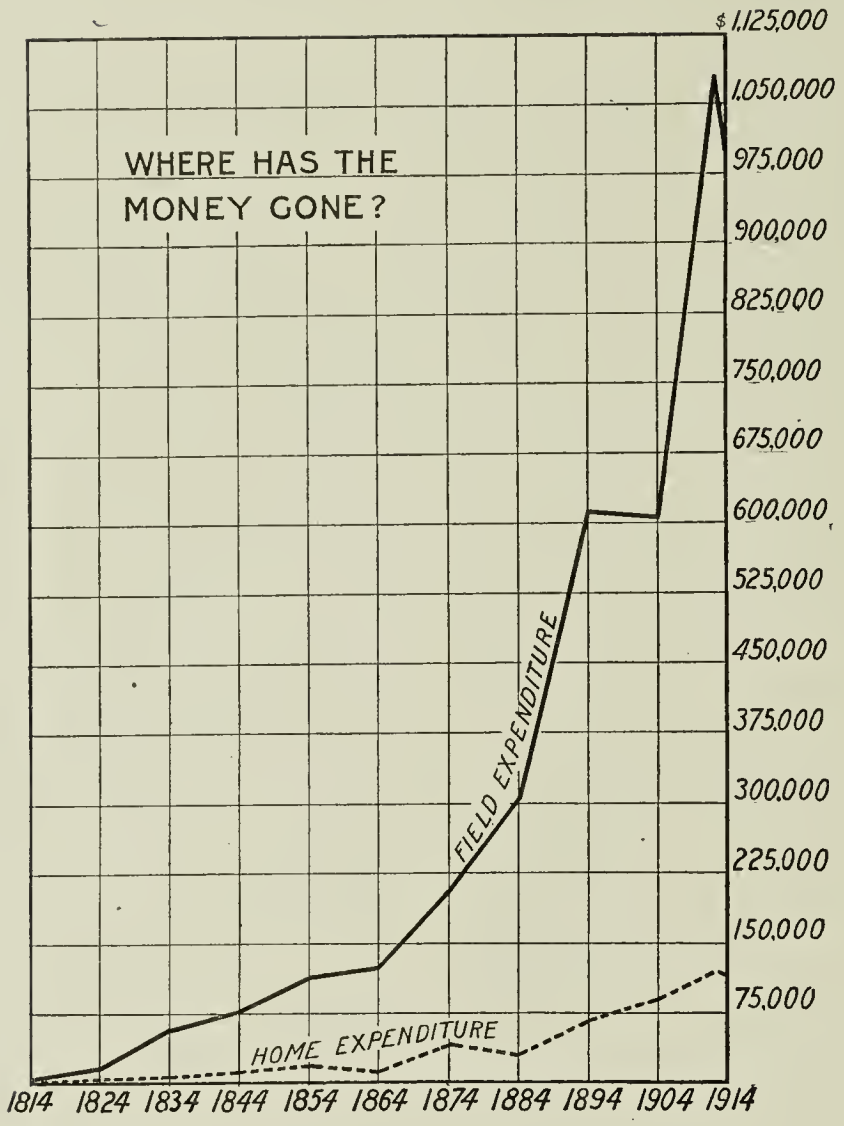
THE record of financial achievement is also remarkable. In 1815, the first year of organized effort, the receipts for foreign missions were $1,059. In 1914, the one hundredth year of organized effort, they were more than one thousand times as much, reaching the splendid total of $1,114,420 including receipts from the woman's societies. The total amount actually contributed during these one hundred years has been $30,345,722.

1. HOW HAS THE MONEY COME?

THE receipts of the Society have come from two main sources, classified as the "receipts from donations" and the "receipts outside donations." The former include contributions from churches, Sunday schools, young people's societies and individuals. In 1914 these amounted to $950,329.71 including receipts from the woman's societies. The latter include legacies and interest from investments which amounted to $164,091.27. The chart gives some idea of the proportion between the two amounts and also shows the peculiar fluctuation in the "receipts outside donations."



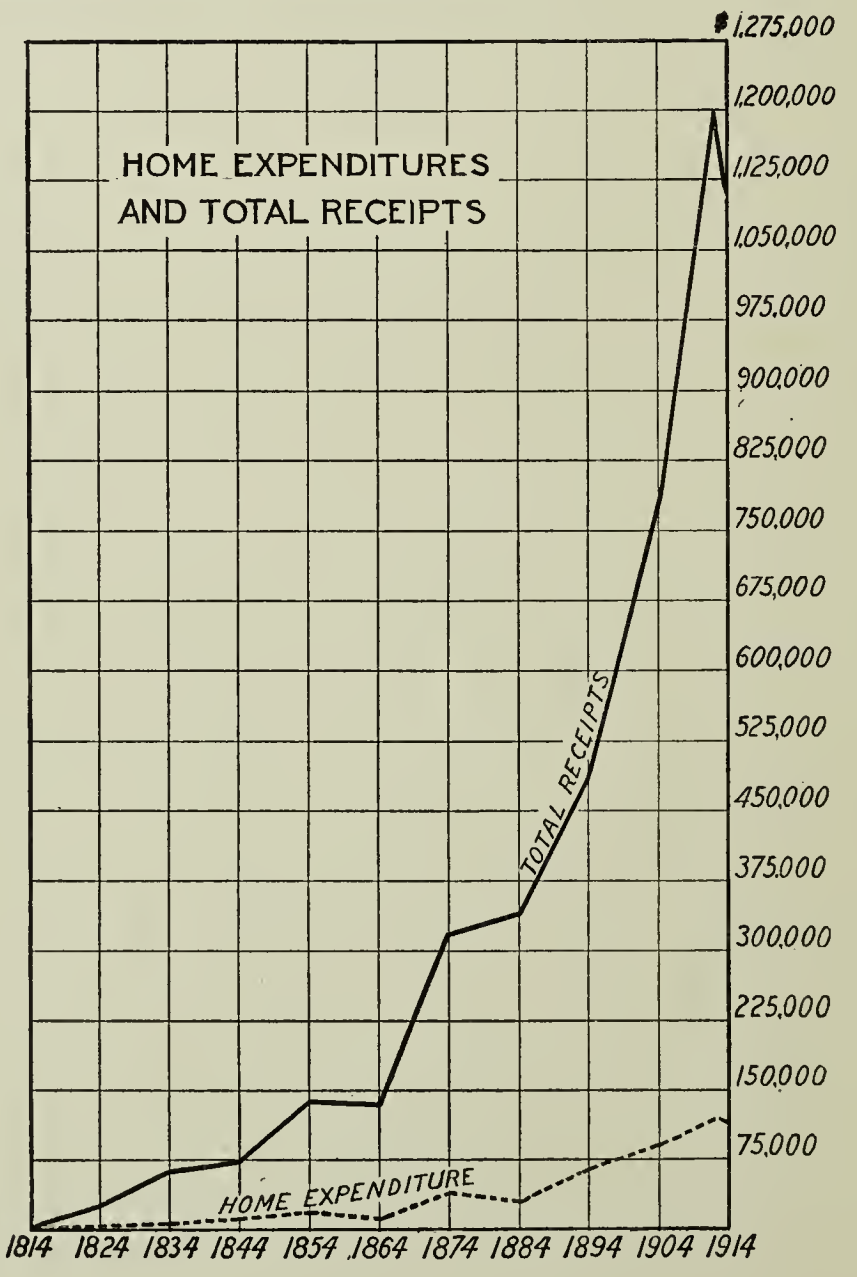
2. WHERE HAS THE MONEY GONE?



THE accompanying chart shows how the thirty million dollars received have been expended during the past one hundred years. The increase in expenditure and the relative amounts that have been spent at home and on the field are clearly indicated. Two points on the chart need a word of explanation. The high point on the lower line in 1874 was the year when the mission rooms were fitted up in Tremont Temple and the fireproof vault was built. The high point on the upper line in 1894 was the year when the field expenditure exceeded receipts by over $200,000, involving a never-to-be-forgotten debt.

3. HOME EXPENDITURES AND TOTAL RECEIPTS

THIS chart indicates the relation between home expenditures and total receipts. The upper line shows the increase of annual receipts. What these increasing gifts have produced has already been given in the preceding pages. The lower line shows the increase in the administrative cost. The relationship between the two is shown in that every increase in the administrative cost has resulted in an enormous increase in total receipts.



III. The Century in Comparative Achievement

A. Comparison of Total Work in All Lands

AMONG the 340 foreign missionary societies of the world, the position of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, based on the total work of all the societies in all lands, is as follows:

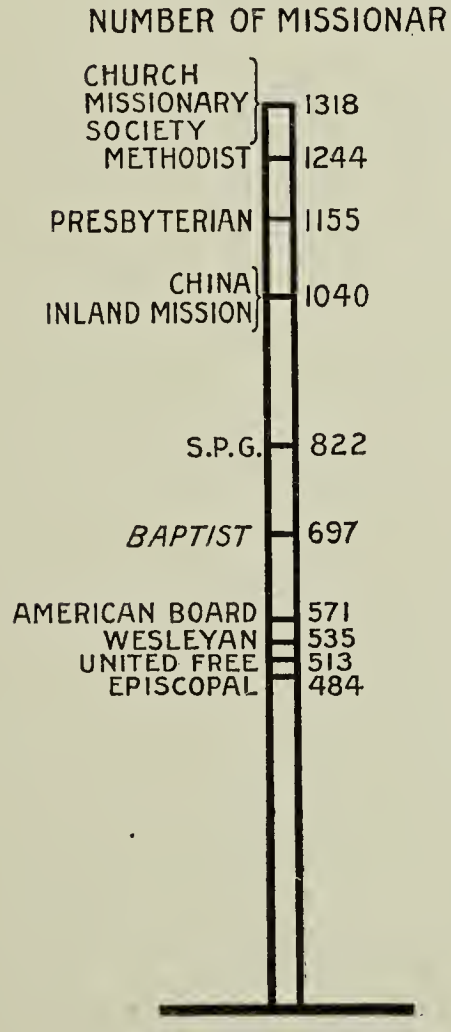
1st in Native Church Members.
1st in Organized Native Churches.
2d in Additions Last Year.
3d in Number of Native Workers.
3d in Number of Schools.
4th in Home Income.
6th in Number of Missionaries.
7th in Number of Hospitals.
8th in Number of Pupils.
9th in Years of Service.

B. Comparison of Work in Non-Christian Lands Only

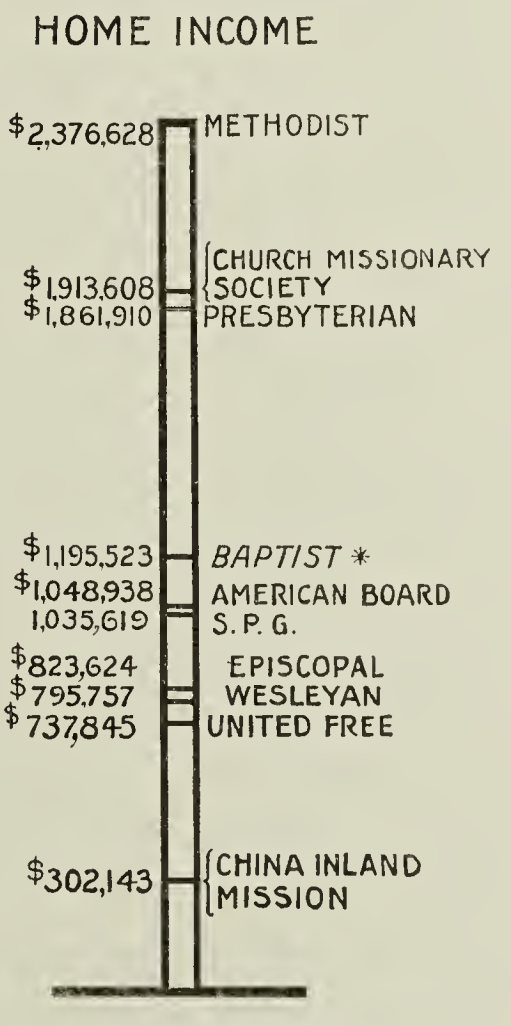
WE can compare our results in non-Christian lands with the similar accomplishment of other denominations, by selecting the ten largest societies in the world, reckoned on the basis of missionary force. These are the American Board, Northern Baptist, Protestant Episcopal, Northern Methodist, Northern Presbyterian, China Inland Mission, Church Missionary Society, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, United Free Church of Scotland, and the Wesleyan.

Note: — In all the following diagrams, with the exception of those in section 5, the statistics are based on the reports of the various societies issued in 1913.

1. MISSIONARIES AND HOME INCOME

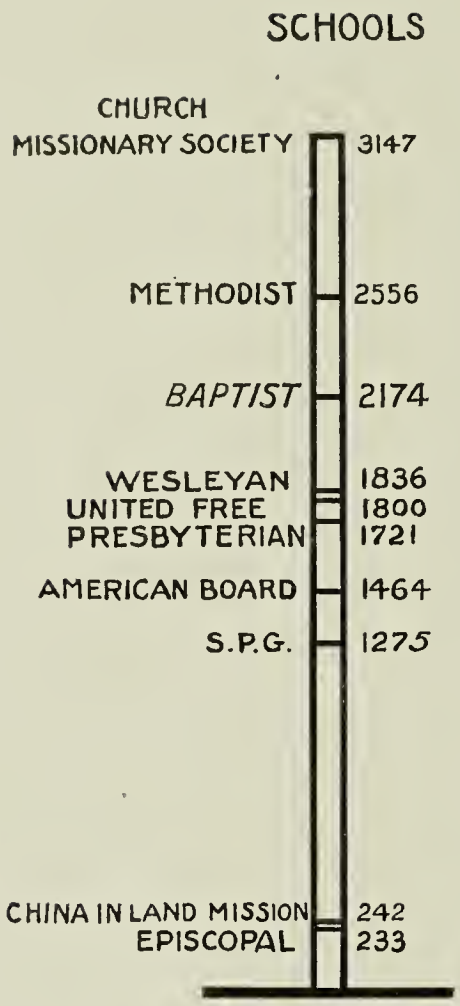


THE fundamental human resources of every society are missionaries and money. We may well feel encouraged at our financial achievement, and yet large as are the present contributions, they are far less than the gifts of three other denominations. Our missionary force has grown to enormous size and yet there are to-day three other societies whose force is about half as large again, and one whose number of missionaries is almost twice as large.



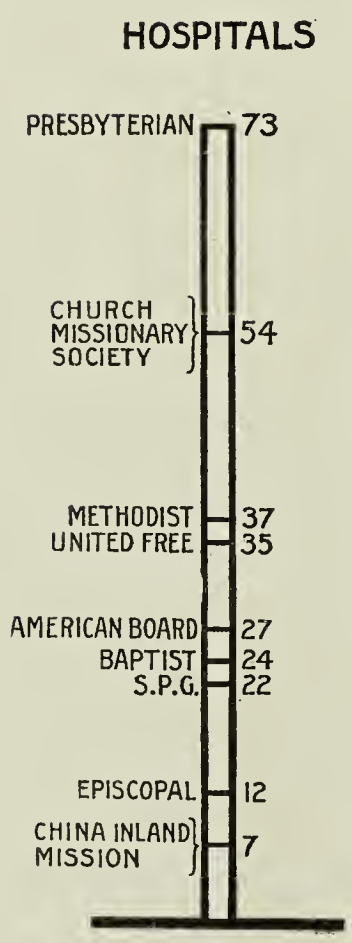
* This figure is for income only, that is, the money available for current expenses. It does not include additions to the permanent and annuity funds.

2. SCHOOLS AND PUPILS

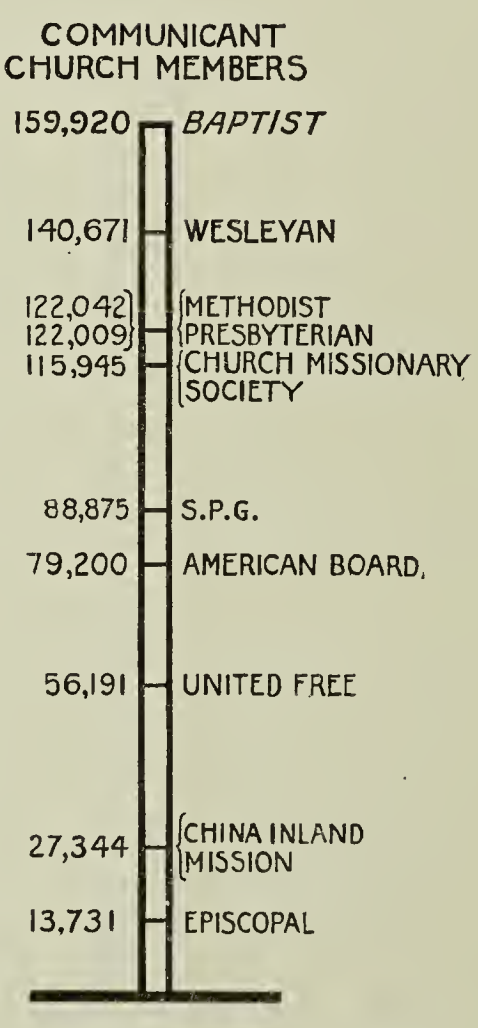


AS compared with other societies we stand high in the number of schools. But when we compare the number of pupils under instruction, there is a somewhat different story to tell. Why? One answer is probably found in the relatively large number of small jungle schools. Another reason is probably the lack of adequate equipment and facilities. Certain it is that we are not reaching the numbers we should.

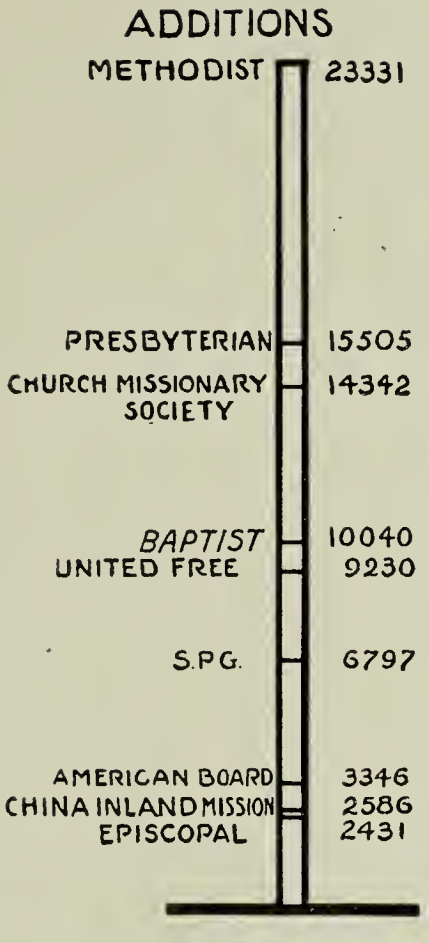
3. HOSPITALS AND CHURCH MEMBERS



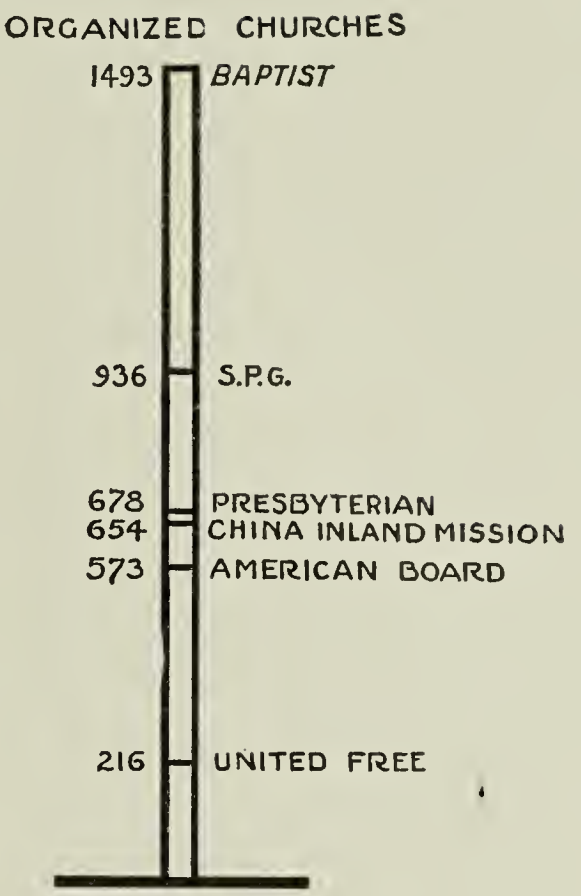
SINCE Dr. Jonathan Price went out in 1821 to be associated with Judson in our Burma mission, we have sent out missionary doctors and emphasized medical work. According to the report for 1913, we have 54 physicians in the different fields. We have comparatively few hospitals simply because we have never invested heavily in buildings for the medical and educational branches of the work. This has been due chiefly to a lack of sufficient funds to provide adequately for the imperative needs of existing work and at the same time supply the buildings needed for the future. If we take hospitals as typical of material equipment, these two diagrams present in rather sharp contrast the direction in which our results are small and that in which they are large. In material results represented by equipment and buildings, we have less to show than some of the other denominations; in spiritual results, such as baptisms, churches and members we stand among the first.



4. ADDITIONS AND CHURCHES



IN the number of organized churches we stand first, as far as the figures are available. In the number of additions in 1913, three of the societies exceeded our number, having more missionaries and larger income. The significance of this fact (for us) is that if we would maintain our present leading position, we must increase our resources of money and men.



5. BAPTISMS AND SELF-SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Statistics for the one-hundredth year

IF we add the baptisms in those European countries in which we have had a share in the work to the 308,605 recorded in non-Christian lands, we reach a total of 585,351. Over half a million in a century! These individuals have been organized into 1,575 churches, of which 908 or 57 per cent. are to-day self-supporting. If the primary aim of mission work is the organization and development of native churches to a point where they become self-supporting, self-directing, and self-extending, then the number of our self-supporting churches is a measure of our Baptist achievement.

6. THE TASK OF A NEW CENTURY

AS we look out upon the century that is just opening, our missionary task appears even larger and more complex than that of the past. The task of the first century was to lay foundations. The missionary was the bearer of an individual message to individuals. The very success of these earlier efforts has intensified our present problem, for the modern missionary, with the same burning message to deliver, must in addition organize the thousands reached into an army for the Christian conquest of their own lands. Thus the missionary of the new century must be not only a private soldier engaged in personal battle, but a general directing the forces of the campaign.

The task of the first century was the fundamental work of planting the Christian church in non-Christian lands. The task of a new century is the expansion, and more especially the training, of this native church. This means not only continued emphasis on evangelism, but a new emphasis on Christian education, for the native church will never become self-extending and self-directing without an educated and efficient laity as well as an educated and efficient ministry.

The task of the first century was the translation of the Christian message into the *language* of the people, a task which has now been practically accomplished. The task of the new century will be the translation of this same Christian message into the *life* of the people, into their industrial, social, and political as well as religious life. While the task of Christian missions means the salvation of individual souls, and the planting of Christian churches, it includes also the permeating of pagan civilizations with the spirit and influence of Christianity through the Christian education of native leaders. We shall need to utilize more fully than in the past the great social forces of Christianity, recognizing the fact that it is not sufficient to convert men nor to educate them. The whole social life must be reconstructed on a Christian basis. In this task the second century will build upon the foundations of the first.

Finally the task of the second century will be that of cooperation with the missionary endeavors of other denominations. Winning the world to Jesus Christ is one work. Each denomination in its own way, and also through cooperative effort with the others, will contribute to the fulfillment of the divine plan — the establishment of God's Kingdom throughout the world.

This pamphlet is not issued in any feeling of denominational pride over what Baptists have accomplished. It is issued rather as an expression of appreciation and gratitude to God for the part he has been pleased to give to Baptists in the missionary achievements of the century.

For additional literature or any other information regarding the work of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, write to any of the following:—

The nearest District Secretary.
Department of Missionary Education, 23 E. 26th St., New York City.
Literature Department, Post Office Box 41, Boston, Mass.

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